

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Commissioner of Education



August 1, 2013

Mr. Gary Chartrand
Chairman
Florida State Board of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Chairman Chartrand:

I would like to begin by thanking you, the members of the State Board of Education and Governor Scott for providing me the opportunity to serve as Commissioner of Education and serve the children of this great state. I came here to serve and lead and I am proud of our work and accomplishments during my tenure as commissioner.

I have always maintained that the job of preparing our children for a 21st century economy is the most important job we have, and nothing should distract us from that task. The events of the last week, while I believe malicious and rooted in unfounded accusations, have created a distraction from that important work. Despite strong support and encouragement to remain as commissioner from you, the members of the State Board and Governor Scott, I hereby tender by resignation as Commissioner of Education for the State of Florida effective immediately.

I wish Governor Scott, the State Board of Education, the educators, and most of all the children of Florida nothing but the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tony Bennett".

Tony Bennett